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New Decorative Dahlia "Isabel McElney"

BESSIE · BOSTON · DAHLIAS  
1931

## TRADE DISCOUNT

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# 1930 BESSIE BOSTON WINNINGS

Annual Show

## Dahlia Society of San Francisco

PALACE HOTEL

SEPTEMBER 1930

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FIRST PRIZE—Twelve blooms, one variety of Californians (Sunny Jim Rolph).

FIRST PRIZE—Collection of decorative dahlias (Andrew Harper, Bueno, Cherub, Comanche, F. W. Butler, Isabel McElney, Judge Leon McCord, Pola, Regal, Shudow's Lavender, Snow White, Stanford Cardinal).

FIRST PRIZE—Collection of hybrid, American and English cactus. (Ballet Girl, Dorothy Dix, El Granada, F. J. March, Felise, Gerda, Gertrude Ederle, Ishbel, Pompadour, Rondo, Starlight, W. H. Waite.)

FIRST PRIZE—Vase of fancy or bi-colored dahlias, six blooms, one variety (Burlingame). 1932 introduction.

FIRST PRIZE—Vase of red dahlias, five blooms (Comanche).

FIRST PRIZE—Vase of gold dahlias, five blooms (Starlight).

FIRST PRIZE—Best pink or old rose dahlia shown on stem (Cherub).

FIRST PRIZE—Best dahlia of any other color than pink, red or yellow (Ivory).

We are proud of these prizes, including seven seconds, as every dahlia on our table, save one, was a Bessie Boston origination.

## A Personal Dahlia Review

**D**AHLIA growing on the Pacific Coast was in its infancy in 1913, when two of us started growing dahlias on El Camino Real, the coast highway between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Dahlias in those days originated in England, France, Germany and Holland, and they were decidedly different from the dahlias of today. The thin-petalled, weak-stemmed English cactus type prevailed; there were no hybrids, only a few from Germany of a heavier petalage, which were described as "large but not coarse" flowers. Wodan (can you remember it?) was one of these. From it and a French decorative, Souvenir Gustav de Doazin (the largest dahlia) was bred George Walters. I remember listing this the first time under the decoratives. The next season the American Dahlia Society created the hybrid cactus type.

The decorative type gained favor quickly in California, especially those varieties with strong stems. Several California reds made strong friends, such as Bessie Boston and Minna Burgle, and gardeners and professional growers were encouraged to plant liberally of seed. At that time red was the prevailing color in dahlias. Types were practically the same as at present. Shows were held irregularly until the Exposition in 1915. Flowers were nearly all exhibited on stems, in bottles, and with good reason, for a percentage of the stems were pendant.

Ordering from European catalogues was a gamble, for while a few people wanted dahlias merely for exhibition, many wanted the gaudy flowers for household use. Color was becoming fashionable.

We imported the first collarette, and it created a sensation. People liked them better than pompons, which were large, and disbudded. I remember my chagrin at losing a prize because my pompons were too small!

The Panama Pacific International Exposition started the boom for dahlias all over the United States. There were growing exhibits in the grounds, and fresh exhibits daily in the California Building, so visitors enjoyed the blossoms both cut and growing. There were also two large shows held in Horticultural Hall. In a sense, this was educational, as California growers endeavored to exhibit dahlias with strong stems.

Fifteen years have passed, and practically all dahlias grown now are good for cutting. The dahlia shows make a feature of flowers shown on long, strong stems. In addition to the immense size the blooms have attained, and the greatly improved growing characteristics, there has been developed a marvelous range of color—every shade imaginable, except strong blue. Purple and lavender varieties, however, are often suffused with pale blue. Form of the types has so varied that dahlia societies are changing their classifications. Fall shows, with dahlias predominating, are held in all parts of the United States; in villages, as well as cities.

The future of the dahlia lies with the buyer. Shall the professional grower continue to work to develop huge dahlias, or will flowers of medium size be found better for the bouquet? In all our seedling patches, miniatures are arriving. Shall we save these? Mr. and Mrs. Buyer what do you think?

ELIZABETH W. LYMBERY  
(formerly Bessie Boston)

January 1931.

**BESSIE BOSTON DAHLIA FARM**  
San Mateo, California

## 1930-1931 Bessie Boston Introductions

**ALLURING. D.** Bright gold; every petal edged and shaded with salmon. The effect, at a distance, is golden salmon. The flower, in form and texture, resembles Valentino. This is a distinctly new break in gold and pink shading. The flower is very big, of splendid depth, and a good cutting stem. The tall-growing bushes carry the flowers well out of the coarse foliage. A plant that will always have many blossoms. **\$7.50.**

**ARDMORE. D.** Many people can see nothing but size in a dahlia. These people should like Ardmore. The flowers are immense, but are irregularly formed. The coloring is bright crimson, reverse a lighter color, and the edge of each petal is pencilled in gold. This is not so apparent in the first flowers, which are tipped with chrome. Ten inch flowers are an everyday occurrence. Bushes are of medium height, and while there is a slight droop to the stems, the flowers will stand up well in a vase or in a bouquet. It is a flower that will attract attention at once on an exhibition table. Blooms early and late. There will always be flowers on a bush, but it cannot be called an excessive bloomer. **\$5.00.**

**CAMEO. D.** A bush of Cameo will be a picture in a garden for many weeks. Ours began flowering the middle of July, and in October were a mass of splendid big blossoms, grown on absolutely stiff stems. It is a variety that will always need a good deal of disbudding, for the buds and laterals grow very quickly. It would almost seem last year as if when we finished a row, we had to turn around and start in all over again. Another tall grower, with coarse foliage. The color is a creamy lavender, decidedly different than any other lavender we have ever offered or ever seen. In bud and in the half open flower the pinkish tone prevails, but in the full bloom there is a decided blue suffusion, with slight traces of white on the petals, which is entirely unnoticeable unless examined closely. Petals are long, narrow and irregularly placed. Stem absolutely stiff at all seasons. Blossoms grow well out of the bushes. The stalks are as big around as an average sized woman's wrist. At all seasons a healthy grower. We consider this quite an addition to the pastel colored dahlias. **\$10.00**

**CAROL. D.** A top-of-the-stem variety. The stiff, wiry stems carry the flowers flat on top. This characteristic is noticeable in the late season, as well as the early. Bushes grow tall. Will start blooming early in July, if planted the latter part of April, and will continue until frost. Color is soft, silvery pink, with a deeper reverse. The deep reverse coloring of the petals is most noticeable in the center of the flower, forming a dark eye. Flowers keep in perfect form the entire season. Bushes, with us, never contain open-centred blossoms. Petals are very long, fairly narrow, and pointed. There is a slight wave to them. The depth is excellent, and the unusualness of the form is quite noticeable wherever the flower is placed. **\$5.00.**

**CHERUB (Illustrated). D.** There are many pretty women and many pretty dahlias, but there is an occasional woman and an occasional dahlia whose beauty stands out boldly among all others. Cherub is one of these extraordinarily lovely dahlias. Deepest shade of salmon pink, or, if you prefer, old rose. The effect is heightened by delicate shadings of cream yellow, which also outline the petals. Cherub is a very big flower, regularly formed, and has great depth. Petals are wide and pointed. One of those clean, crisp flowers that last so many days when cut. Bushes grow tall, and sturdily. Leaves are large, but flowers grow well out of the foliage on long, stiff stems. Bushes start blooming early, and always will contain excellent flowers, but probably will have never more than five or six on at a time. This will continue all season. To a busy dahlia grower this is a comfort, for the flowers always remain perfect. Color schemes have always fascinated the writer, and it is very difficult to get something entirely new. However, we recommend to people with similar tastes, to try combining Cherub, Valentino and Alluring. They make a very charming bouquet, and restful, after bouquets of reds and yellows and pinks and lavenders. This variety is also a prize winner, as it won the first prize in the Palace Hotel show for the best pink or old rose dahlia shown on stem. **\$15.00.**

**CIRCE. C.** If you can grow this cactus well, you will have the biggest specimen flowers of any of the English type. It is hardly necessary to add that we have grown flowers of it ten inches across, but must admit we have not produced many, as it is not the easiest dahlia to grow. It will flourish along the seaside. However, at no period does the fine-petalled flower burn. The coloring is a soft, silvery pink, shading gradually to a white centre. The petals are very long, very fine and straight, and the bloom is carried on an excellent stem. Bushes are tall and flower freely the entire season. The flower has a starlike appearance, and will be a tremendous addition to the cactus type, for exhibition. We might add it is an equally good cut flower. We find cactus are among the best keepers in dahlias. English cactus. **\$5.00.**

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BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

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New Decorative Dahlia "Cherub"

1930-1931 BESSIE BOSTON INTRODUCTIONS—(Continued)

**C. M. SADLER. D.** An unusually beautiful flower, with a striking combination of colors which is quite new. The orchid coloring is slightly pinker than the cattleya—a pinkish orchid coloring, with a silver sheen, and a wine-colored reverse. The petals are very irregularly and gracefully placed, forming what some people would call an artistic flower. Size is very large, and the depth equally good. Stems are long and straight. The late Mr. C. M. Sadler was a great lover of dahlias, and his dahlia patch in Alameda was considered one of the sights of that dahlia city. His dahlias were all planted to color, and Mr. Sadler gave practically all his time to caring for the flowers he loved. It seems only fitting that such a beautiful dahlia should be named after an enthusiastic lover of the flower. Bushes grow tall, bloom freely, and continue to carry a wealth of blossoms during the fall months. This dahlia has only once been entered for a prize, and that was several seasons ago, when it won the best two-year-old seedling; and we might add, its progress has been watched with a great deal of interest by several of the dahlia growers since. Unusually beautiful on the show table. **\$10.00.**

**COMANCHE. D.** Naturally, with the Indian name, this is a red dahlia. It is a beautiful scarlet, a great big fellow, with most attractive petalage—long, narrow and curved, with a twist of its own. There are countless rows, forming a flower almost ball-shaped, it is so deep. Stem is good. Bushes grow tall and spreading. The main stalk is almost like a tree, it is so heavy. An early and continuous bloomer. The shade is what we would call a yellow scarlet. There are no pink tones in the flower. With the craze for Mediterranean or Spanish type of houses, everybody wants brilliant colored dahlias; at least, they do in California. This is a 1930 prize winner, as it won first for the best five blooms of a red dahlia, the second day of the Palace Hotel show. **\$5.00.**

**HELIO. D.** White, heavily splashed and veined with heliotrope. It almost takes imagination to see the white in this dahlia, it is so heavily suffused with the deep color. A large flower, on long, wiry stems. The color is quite unusual, and combines beautifully with all dahlias on the purple tones. A bush of this variety is most striking, as the stems, instead of being green, have a purple tone, and the foliage is a very dull, dark green, that combines wonderfully with the stem and the flower. Bushes grow tall, and bloom early and late. **\$5.00.**

**ISABEL McELNEY (Front Cover Illustration). D.** Several professional growers who visited all the dahlia fields last fall, pronounced this decorative the best introduction of 1930. The flower is irresistible, or so it seemed to everybody who saw it. In the show, those really interested in dahlias wrote down its name, and in the garden we were constantly asked "What is that immense dahlia in the front row?" No, we did not enter it for a prize at the Palace Hotel. Many of our best varieties have never been offered by us for prizes, including Mariposa and Daddy Butler, which have won hundreds of prizes. This is an unusual dahlia in both form and color. The picture will give an idea of the curious pinwheel shape of the flower, but the color is indescribable. One will have to see it to really appreciate it. Some people say it is watermelon, some old rose, and all agree it is a lovely and new pink. We'll let it go as an old rose watermelon combination. The bushes grow low, but send out long flower stems which are as unbending as a steel rod. An early show necessitated our planting about the middle of April, instead of the customary May 1, and early and generous bloomers, including Isabel McElney, produced crown flowers by the middle of July. However, we picked perfect 11-inch blooms of this variety on October 15. This is a blossom conspicuous wherever placed. Excellent for cutting. Mrs. McElney and her friends claim it keeps fresh a week in the house. **\$15.00.**

**LADY BELLE. D.** Visitors to the Highway garden are very familiar with the dahlia Lady Belle, as we have grown it there for three years, for a cut flower. It is an incomparable pink. The flower, early in the season, tops the stem. The pink is true pink, shading deeper to the centre. This variety shows Mariposa blood; everybody says so, and while we have no record, we believe our friends are right. The bushes grow exceedingly tall, with luxuriant foliage and an abundance of blooms. One of the earliest dahlias to blossom, and one of the last to go. Centre is always closed. One of its best features is exceedingly long, stiff stems. Many of the flowers grow more than a foot above the first pair of leaves. We have seen crown flowers on stems 5 and 6 feet long, on bushes that really produced hundreds of blooms afterwards on 3-foot stems. Our customers who are particularly interested in cut flowers admire Lady Belle excessively, and state the blossoms keep excellently when cut. Our pink basket in the show, which would have taken first prize, if we had not forgotten to enter it, was composed entirely of Lady Belle and Rosalie. The form of Lady Belle is rather unusual. Petals are very long, narrow and recurved. Flower has splendid depth. Bushes,

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BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

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1930-1931 BESSIE BOSTON INTRODUCTIONS—(Continued)

from the very beginning, are clean-growing. Six years ago, this variety was a seedling, and we have been hanging on to our stock ever since, appreciating its value as a cut flower, and as an exhibition blossom when shown in masses. It is a "cut and come again" variety. Every bush will contain, at all seasons of the year, a quantity of splendid blossoms. While we classify Lady Belle as a decorative dahlia, it is one of those varieties where classification is difficult. **\$7.50.**

**LILY LANGTRY. D.** This is a seedling of the well-known Jersey Beauty, and anyone familiar with the original will not need to be told this. However, the color is deeper, and, in this part of California, the flower is larger and the bushes bloom more freely. Note that we say this part of California. In the south, where it is still warmer, we understand that Jersey Beauty blooms more freely than it does around San Mateo. The coloring of this new decorative is old rose, with a slight gold suffusion which creates a metallic lustre. It seems hardly necessary to say that the stems are stiff and excellent for cutting. When we saw the first blossoms on the seedling bush, the name Lily Langtry came to us, for Lily Langtry was the original Jersey Beauty, or, as she was more commonly called in her day, the Jersey Lily. **\$5.00.**

**MRS. H. T. HENNIG. D.** The "painted dahlia." Everybody said they did not envy the writer the job of describing this dahlia. It is a case of a fool rushing in where angels fear to tread. The dahlia is white—no question about that—but it is delicately painted with bright pink. It just seems as if Nature had taken a white dahlia and dipped a brush in bright pink and touched up many of the petals, adding a wee tip of pale gold to the point of each petal. No two flowers are painted alike. Early in the season only part of each petal will appear pink. Later, the brighter color predominates. But if you will look at the flower carefully, you will always see that the reverse, as well as the petals, towards the centre, are white. In 1929 we had this dahlia among our seedlings on our exhibition table, and it attracted more attention than any flower in the Palace Hotel show. People were constantly coming up and asking us what it was. In 1930 it again attracted the public's complimentary notice. We doubt if this dahlia can ever be grown over nine inches, but it's a case where beauty, rather than size, predominates. The stem at all seasons is straight. Bushes grow, with us, about four feet tall, and are in bloom at all seasons of the year. Petals are long, narrow and pointed. Mrs. H. T. Hennig was an amateur exhibitor for many seasons, and never failed to carry home the majority of the prizes. We were rather flattered when she noticed this dahlia and consented to have it named after her. Nobody ever grew better dahlias than Mrs. Hennig and, we might add, she still has a dahlia garden, although circumstances have prevented her exhibiting for several seasons. To the most casual observer, possibly, this is a white dahlia, with many of the petals heavily overlaid pink. **\$5.00 net.**

**POLA. D.** Big, flaring, blunt-petalled blossoms, regularly formed, held on an excellent, stiff stem. The bushes arrest immediate attention. The flower is gold, heavily suffused with sunset pink. The reverse of the petals is the deep color, and the outer petals are slightly tinted. The effect is most striking. What made the row so conspicuous in our garden was the distinctive dark green foliage and the purplish green stems. It was rather startling to see reddish gold flowers on bushes of this color. Bushes grow tall, start blooming early, and continue to flower abundantly all season. **\$10.00.**

**ROMNEY. D.** So far, no one has been able to create a blue dahlia, and many people question the probability. However, in California there grows a wild scarlet delphinium, so perhaps some day a blue dahlia will arrive. But there are lavender dahlias which have a distinct blue tone, and Romney is one of these. The blue light has been noticed by many and it is observable in the full sunshine, in the shade, or under artificial light, but it could not be classed as blue. The flower at all seasons is large, well formed, with narrow, flat petals. Bushes grow to medium height, we might say low medium, and are always full of stiff-stemmed flowers. This dahlia attracted more than usual attention, as it was in the second row of our exhibition garden, close to the entrance gate. **\$5.00.**

**ROMULUS. D.** This might be described as a sturdy flower. The bushes grow only moderately tall, but carry a wealth of blooms the entire season, with the strongest upright stems. The color is gold, heavily flushed with orange. This coloring does not vary the entire season. The bushes arrest immediate attention. The many rows of petals are exceedingly long and form a large, as well as a deep blossom. They are fairly regularly placed. **\$5.00.**

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BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

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1930-1931 BESSIE BOSTON INTRODUCTIONS—(*Continued*)

**RONDO. C.** A big basket of this fine-petalled cactus was one of the sensations of the last Palace Hotel show, and no wonder. Every blossom was as clean as if it had been grown under sun-cloth, instead of the hot sunshine of San Mateo, and the stems were long and stiff, although slender. The flowers were arranged rather formally, but every blossom stood rigid, almost as if it were a soldier at attention. Visiting tourists from the F. T. D. particularly admired it, and they had just come from fields of early chrysanthemums grown under muslin. They could not believe that this dahlia was not similarly grown. Even on the hottest day (and occasional days were hot last summer) the fine petals never burned. The flower, for this type, is very large, and a clear, bright primrose yellow. There is almost a transparency to the petals, which are incurved. Well, to avoid discussion we will call this an American type of cactus, but the petals are as fine as many of the English varieties. Bushes are tall growing and carry an abundance of blooms at all times of the season. **\$7.50.**

**ST. DOROTHY. HC.** This is a huge flower of lavender-pink, shading to almost white toward the centre. Curious as it may sound, the centre is a deeper tone. Our row of this hybrid cactus started blooming about the middle of July, and never stopped until frost. The size, late in the season, was large, and for about two months every flower was immense. We have never seen a semi-double flower on the bushes, and that is saying something for a variety that bears as freely and as long as St. Dorothy. Stems are long and stiff. Flowers grow right out of the bushes. This is a dahlia that is going to please everybody, or, at least, we like to prophecy so. It has a distinctive, beautiful coloring, and an upright stem, as well as immense size. With many people color is the thing. Visitors to the Highway garden have remarked that St. Dorothy was pink; others, lavender. To us it seems a lavender-pink. This is a pastel coloring that is distinct from anything listed. The bushes only grow to medium height, but are very bushy, and at all seasons contain a superabundance of high-class blossoms, which never show centre. **\$15.00.**

**"SUNNY JIM" ROLPH (Illustrated). HC.** The original Sunny Jim (James Rolph, Jr.) was Mayor of San Francisco for twenty years, so it was quite proper that he should open the fifteenth dahlia show held in the Palace Hotel. Naturally, being a native Californian, he would choose a California dahlia to bear the name bestowed upon him by an admiring public. Mr. Rolph, at the time of the show, was the Republican nominee for Governor of the State of California, and is now no longer Mayor, but Governor Rolph. And now a description of the dahlia. The flower is huge, and of a wonderful color of gold, with a suffusion of flaming orange. To a casual observer, the flower is afire with the deeper color in the sunlight. Seen under artificial light, it looks as if there were a fire beneath it. This effect is produced by the flame color reverse, extending half-way up the petals from the centre. If you can imagine a gold dahlia with an orange colored electric bulb lighted underneath it, you will get some idea of the effect of Sunny Jim Rolph. As the seasons advances, the fiery tinting deepens. This is a slightly incurved form of hybrid cactus. It was one of the first three or four dahlias to start blooming in our Highway garden. The first bloom probably appeared the first or second of July. The crop of blooms was immense, and centres remained closed all season. Stems are good. Early flowers were all ten to twelve inches. Well, this must be a pretty good dahlia, for it won the Santa Barbara Cup for the best twelve blooms in the Palace show. Bushes are medium height, branching and leafy, and the foliage is coarse and abundant. **\$15.00.**



## All Types

(Grouped together for a change.)

C denotes cactus; AC American cactus; EC English cactus; HC hybrid cactus; D decorative, P peony.

Pompon dahlias are listed on page 24.

**A. A. STYVERS (Bessie Boston). HC.** Flowers are at all times immense, and carried on fine, strong, long stems. Color is most attractive, amber shaded with salmon rose, with a distinct centre of creamy tan. There is no dahlia exactly like it in coloring, and it is a variety which does not change coloring when grown in different soil and climate. Nine-inch flowers are a daily occurrence; in fact, we have had many flowers eight and nine inches when the terminal buds have not been removed. There will be no limit to the size of the flower if heavy disbudding is practiced. Centres remain closed the entire season. Bushes grow very tall and at all times are weighted with flowers, which will outlast nearly every other dahlia in a bouquet. **\$10.00.**

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BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

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New Hybrid Cactus Dahlia " 'Sunny Jim' Rolph "

ALL TYPES—(*Continued*)

**ABUNDANTE (Bessie Boston). C.** This is the Spanish word for abundance, accent the **e** when pronouncing it. It is one of the first to burst into bloom, and never ceases. This is a large, bright yellow cactus of American type. Flower is perfectly incurved. Stem is very strong and stiff. Bushes grow luxuriantly and fairly tall. **\$2.00.**

**AIMEE HODGENS (Bessie Boston). HC.** Golden bronze. This combination is effected by a slight suffusion of dull red on the reverse of the petals. Perhaps a more exact description would be: a bright gold, with a reddish glow. Perfect type of hybrid cactus, with stem as straight and hard as a cane. Flowers are very large. One of the earliest bloomers, and also one of the freest. Plants will contain as many as ten high-class blooms at one time. Bushes grow tall and spreading, and need plenty of space to expand. Foliage is coarse. We believe that with careful disbudding this can be grown as large as any hybrid cactus in commerce, and the color is enchanting. We hate to use the same old phrase again and again; but it is **different**; everybody who has seen this dahlia has commented on its great beauty. **\$10.00.**

**ALICE CECELIA (Bessie Boston). C.** A pure white American cactus, borne on an absolutely stiff stem. Bushes grow very tall, with coarse foliage. They start blooming early, and keep at it as long as there is a flower in the garden, which, in this part of California, means Thanksgiving week. The form of this dahlia varies; you will find on the same bush straight petalled and incurved blossoms. They are equally good. A particularly lovely dahlia in every way. This dahlia can be grown to enormous size, considering the type. American cactus are not as big as the decoratives, but they are bigger than the old English cactus. **\$3.00.**

**AMULET (Oliver-Bessie Boston). D.** Amulet is a rich deep brown, slightly suffused with gold and old rose. Amulet has every good quality, such as large deep flowers, very long, branching stems, freedom of production, a centre which remains closed, and best of all, the flower will remain fresh in a bouquet when all the rest of the bunch is ready for the compost heap. Bushes grow tall and are among generous producers of flowers which start to bloom early. **\$2.50.**

**ANACAPA (Bessie Boston). D.** Blossoms arranged in a bouquet of autumn shades were always fresh when the others were fading. The flowers on the bushes last indefinitely. Color is a fall shade of rusty gold, shading to tan at the centre. Bushes are of medium height, are the first to bloom, and are always weighted with flowers. The flower all season is very large and carried on a good stem. **\$2.50.**

**ANDREW HARPER (Bessie Boston). D.** The color of this dahlia almost baffles description. The outer petals are tan, with a soft shading of pink; the reverse of the petals is sunset pink. Nothing like it in color; and there surely was never a dahlia of which it was harder to get a word picture. Flower is immense, and has depth as well as diameter. Stems are long and stiff as a ramrod. Bushes are husky, tall growers, with coarse foliage, and flower not only early but continuously until Thanksgiving. Mr. John Dee Wareham wrote of this fine decorative, as grown in Mrs. Samuel H. Taft's picturesque garden in Cincinnati, Ohio: "Andrew Harper is fascinating in color and of good size." This brief comment pleases us, as the dahlia was named for an amateur who is a persistent prize winner in the Palace Hotel shows. **\$10.00.**

**ARISTOCRAT (Bessie Boston). D.** Aristocrat has pleased everybody. The tall growing bushes are laden with long, stiff stemmed, large blossoms, which are always full to the centre. Color is a delight to the eye. It is white, heavily suffused with bluish lavender, and never varies excepting the white is more noticeable as the days shorten. The well formed blossom, with but little disbudding, is exhibition size. **\$3.00.**

**BALLET GIRL (Bessie Boston). EC.** A prize winner in England. A bush will contain a variety of blooms. The biggest percentage of the flowers are orange with a white edge, but there are pure orange blooms, white flowers shading to orange, white flowers edged orange, and other variations all on the same bush. **\$1.00.**

**BEAU BRUMMEL (Bessie Boston). D.** Beau Brummel is a flower of pure royal purple which does not fade nor burn on the hottest day. Stands erect on an incomparable stem. Grows on low spreading bushes. **\$1.00.**

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BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

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ALL TYPES—(Continued)

**BEAU IDEAL (Bessie Boston). D.** This is a Mariposa in decorative form. The color will vary. In some climates the lavender will predominate, and in others, pink. Some bushes will contain blossoms of both colors. That happens in our own garden, and Eastern correspondents write us they have the same experience. They also write that all flowers were immense and beautiful. When blossoms of both colors grew on a bush, the shades blended harmoniously. Early and late our bushes are covered with immense flowers borne on long, straight stems. They grow right out of the foliage. **\$3.00.**

**BRUNETTE (Bessie Boston). P.** New 1930. One of the largest flowers of this type, carried on a long, perfectly stiff stem. Color is a bright maroon with a velvety sheen. Blossom is deep and well formed, with plenty of curling petaloids around the yellow centre. Bushes grow very tall and bloom most freely at all times. **\$3.00.**

**BUENO (Bessie Boston). D.** A large, beautiful flower of an original coloring; burnished copper, shading to bright yellow at the centre, and suffused with pink. Stem is incomparable. Bushes grow tall and have excellent flowers from early to late season. Flower is large and deep, and is suitable for both exhibition and cutting. **\$2.00.**

**CANARY (Bessie Boston). D.** An exceptional yellow which it will be a joy to grow, as it is one of the earliest varieties to bloom and continues to produce a mass of flowers until the frosts cut the bushes down. A mass of close centred flowers. Will require heavy disbudding early in the season, but very little disbudding is necessary later. Bushes grow tall and very luxuriantly. Give a bush plenty of space to grow. Flowers are very large and evenly formed, and grow on upright, hard stems. This is the best lemon yellow. **\$3.00.**

**CAVALIER (Bessie Boston). HC.** A most noticeable dahlia of brilliant scarlet. Every man last fall was attracted by it and so were most of the women. It is a bright geranium scarlet which does not burn on the hottest day. The large flower is built up of many claw-like petals. Stem is strong and long. Bushes grow tall and produce blossoms in abundance. **\$2.50.**

**CHAMPAGNE (Bessie Boston). D.** This immense decorative has been a continuous winner of prizes. Color is delightful, warm autumn shades, varying from burnished copper to a dull golden champagne and chamois. Stem is heavy and holds the massive flower absolutely upright, and the bushes are plentiful producers of blooms. **\$1.00.**

**CHANG (Ballay). D.** A worthwhile introduction of immense size and fascinating blend of colors. Bushes are tall and robust and produce prolifically of flowers on hard, straight stems. The rest of the description is the originator's. "Burnished copper and gold—of oriental blending and lustre which is unmistakably associated with the Far East." **\$2.50.**

**CHANSON (Bessie Boston). P.** The color is the deepest lilac with a bluish sheen. Petals are numerous, broad and flat, giving substance. Stem irreproachable. Floriferous. **\$1.00.**

**COPPERTOP (Bessie Boston). D.** Copper, illuminated with golden lights and suffused with old rose. Briefly, this is the unique color of this splendid big decorative. The flowers are very large, gracefully formed, and hold their centres very late. Bushes grow low, begin flowering early, and every day will contain fine exhibition flowers, carried on strong stems. **\$3.00.**

**DADDY BUTLER (Bessie Boston). HC.** A persistent prize winner is this large hybrid cactus of the truest form. The many petals are perfectly rolled. The color is of the American Beauty rose shades, or rosy carmine. Stem is perfect and we never grew a dahlia which was a heavier producer of blossoms. Will last fresh a week when used as a cut flower. **\$1.00.**

**DAY DREAM (Bessie Boston). D.** A truly lovely flower of a new and striking combination of pastel shades. Imagine, if you can, a large, deep, full decorative bloom of fawn color, suffused with old rose, with the reverse of the petals tinted rose. This decorative is of a fairly regular formation, and can be grown, with care, to immense exhibition size. Centre remains closed until frost destroys the tall growing, free flowering bushes. **\$7.50.**

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BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WOLRD OVER

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ALL TYPES—(*Continued*)

**DORCAS (Bessie Boston). HC.** One of the loveliest pinks we have ever seen. The flower is large, and carried on a good stem. The centre is slightly deeper in color. An absolutely true pink, with no blue or lavender tones. Bush will always contain many beautiful blooms. **\$4.00.**

**DOROTHY DIX (Bessie Boston). HC.** In far-away Japan a dahlia society has been organized and Dorothy Dix had the honor of carrying off a first prize in a show held in Yokohama in the month of July, 1929. An immense blossom of silvery pink of distinct incurved formation. Petals roll very evenly. Stem is perfect, long and stiff. Plants grow tall and sturdily and produce big flowers early and late. Centre is always closed. This is one of the largest hybrid cactus we have ever grown and will be found splendid for exhibition and delightful for cutting. **\$5.00.**

**DR. W. A. CLARK (Oliver-Bessie Boston). D.** The flower is immense, and the coloring is golden yellow, shading to apricot at the centre. Depth corresponds to diameter. Stem is absolutely erect, carrying the blossom well out of the bushes, which grow medium height. Flowers early and continuously. This might aptly be described as an improved El Dorado. **\$3.00.**

**EARLE WILLIAMS (Doolittle). D.** A large scarlet, tipped white. Deep, regularly formed blossom, borne on a fine stem. An exceptionally fine variety of most brilliant coloring. **\$1.00.**

**EL GRANADA (Bessie Boston). HC.** The color is a vivid orange, and the petals twist and interlace, showing at the tips a creamy yellow reverse. The long stem grows well out of the foliage and is absolutely stiff and faultless. The high bushes are covered with large, deep flowers with closed centres, from early until late season. Has won prizes from coast to coast since its introduction, beginning with the Gold Medal for the best six blooms of a three-year-old seedling. This was the largest and most perfect hybrid in the 1929 Los Angeles show. **\$2.00.**

**EMPIRE (Bessie Boston). AC.** Bold large flower of raspberry red is composed of many perfectly rolled, incurved petals. The color is deeper at the centre and gradually lightens to pure raspberry. Profuse bloomer. Prize winner. **\$2.00.**

**FAIR ELAINE (Ballay). HC.** A beautiful shade of rose pink. Petals are fairly coarse, and well placed. Flowers are of a well-defined type. Bushes grow tall, and carry an abundance of large flowers on strong stems. **\$5.00.**

**FAITH GARIBALDI (Garibaldi-Bessie Boston). D.** A charming silvery pink. It has great depth as well as large size, and is held up straight on a long, stiff stalk. Every flower is large and perfectly formed. Flowers begin early and late blooms will be large and beautiful. The stem is strong at all seasons. Flowers never show centre. The best Californian shown in shows throughout the country the past and former seasons. We have in former years exhibited this immense decorative at the Palace Hotel and captured three gold medals with it. As a debutante, it was judged the best six blooms of a three-year-old seedling, and the next year, it won with best display of fifty blooms. In 1926, the judges decided it was the best twenty-five blooms in the show, and it is now winning prizes in the Antipodes. **\$1.00.**

**FELISE (Bessie Boston). HC.** A pastel shading of creamy pink, toning into deep cream. The outer petals are pink, and the centre ones are cream illuminated with a yellow glow. This is one of the most beautiful dahlias. Form is perfect. Petals are long and roll evenly. Stem is long and stiff and the size is immense. Starts to bloom early and keeps at it all season. Plants grow medium height. **\$3.00.**

**F. J. MARCH (Bessie Boston). HC.** "F. J. March was the sensation of my garden this year. Produced a 12-inch bloom the first week in August, and was the talk of the Educational Show held in Butte, August 30," writes a friendly Montana customer. The flower is an enormous one, and one of the biggest dahlias grown of this type. Petals roll evenly, and the form is slightly incurved, especially late in the season. The only flower that was measured in the garden was eleven and a half inches. The color is pure lavender, and does not vary throughout the flower. Should be planted out of the wind, in the full sunshine, and given plenty of space. Bushes grow tall and spreading, with coarse foliage, and, being a rank grower, it is advisable to use three stakes. It bloomed early in August, and continued to produce a generous supply of flowers throughout the autumn. **\$15.00.**

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BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

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ALL TYPES—(Continued)

**FLORABUNDA (Bessie Boston). HC.** Literally translated the name means "free flowering." The name suits this hybrid cactus, for one bush contained every day last season, a bouquet of splendid, stiff stemmed, flowers. The flower stems are strong as a cane and grew well above the foliage. The most pleasing color is bright gold heightened by a delicate apricot flush, which is distinctive as well as unusual. With the ordinary disbudding of a busy dahlia grower, our flowers averaged nine inches, and we sighed when we realized how much bigger the flower would have been in an amateur's garden where heavier disbudding was practiced. This is a very early and continuous bloomer, with full centred flowers all season. **\$5.00.**

**F. W. BUTLER (Bessie Boston). D. (Illustrated).** "Formal Decorative. This Sweepstakes winner as largest bloom at San Francisco in 1929, at the Palace Hotel Show, made a fine impression in its first year in the East. The color is very unusual—halfway between bronze and gold, with copper-brown shadings at the centre and with flushes of gold and brown throughout the flower. It is a big, deep flower and certainly very different from anything we have seen." We think this description of Derrill W. Hart, in *The American Home*, is excellent, but we'll have to add that later in the season the flowers, with us, are a deep orange. The picture conveys the idea of a striped dahlia, but this is wrong—an error in the plate-making. It is the biggest dahlia we have ever seen, and the depth equals the circumference—possibly as deep as any dahlia grown. The crown flower exhibited measured fourteen inches, and was cut from a bush which had not been heavily disbudded. The same bush produced many fine subsequent blossoms. The stem is strong and heavy. Bushes grow about four feet tall in San Mateo; start to bloom early, and continue in profusion the entire season. The late Mr. F. W. Butler, for whom the popular hybrid cactus Daddy Butler was also named, was a splendid amateur gardener. **\$20.00.**

**GERDA (Bessie Boston). HC.** Distinctive new coloring, verging on the American Beauty rose shades. The flower is a deeper color than any variety on the market in these popular tones. Petals are long and narrow, forming a deep flower. The centre of the flower is a burnt rose, gradually shading lighter with each row of petals. Bushes grow tall and luxuriantly, start flowering early, and continue to the end of the season. Stem at all times is stiff. A flower that will be found useful for any purpose, and is particularly lovely on an exhibition table. Excellent for cutting. **\$4.00.**

**GERTRUDE EDERLE (Bessie Boston). HC.** This large primrose dahlia has been a great help in winning prizes for amateurs all over the world. It is always among the prize winners in mixed collections of hybrids. The four best yellow in the Rockville Center (L. I.) show was a record for 1929. The long, straight petals form a very large flower which keeps its centre the entire season. Blooming starts early and the bushes are always well laden. Stem is rigid and long and carries the flower well above the foliage. Plants grow medium height and will need disbudding as the laterals grow quickly. The flower has unusual keeping qualities. The twelve blooms which won the Santa Barbara Cup in the 1927 Palace Hotel show, were all perfect the third day of the show. **\$3.00.**

**GOLDEN HORN (Bessie Boston). D.** The petals of this decorative are formed regularly enough, but they are long and crinkly; they have a frilly effect, according to the ladies. The coloring is exquisite, bright, bright yellow, shading deeper early in the season at the centre of the flower. Bushes grow moderately tall and carry many flowers on excellent stems. The first dahlia to bloom in our 1930 garden. Blooms freely; size very large. **\$7.50.**

**GORGEOUS ELIZABETH (Bessie Boston). P.** The name is most descriptive to the thousands of people who are familiar with dahlias. It combines the best characteristics of the two peonies from which it took its name. Color is a brilliant red gayly tipped gold. Blooms very early and continuously. Bushes grow very tall and ten-inch blossoms on stiff stems continue all season. The average stem is over a yard long. **\$4.00.**

**GRACIAS (Oliver-Bessie Boston). D.** This popular dahlia was given us by the late Miss Elsie Oliver, when a seedling, and in a crude way we tried to show our appreciation of the gift in the name, which means, in Spanish, "thank you." One of the biggest, deepest dahlias ever introduced. The color is yellow, heavily overlaid with oriental red. Stem is first class and holds the flower erect. Very free flowering; starts early and continues all season. Bushes grow low. **\$2.50.**

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BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

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ALL TYPES—(*Continued*)

**HEARTSEASE (Bessie Boston). HC.** A large hybrid cactus of two contrasting shades of orchid. The outsides of the petals are a silvery lavender, the reverse a much deeper tone. This gives the effect of a cattleya orchid. Form is perfect. Petals are long and closely rolled. Centre remains closed the whole blossoming period. Stems are hard and canelike. The bushes grow tall and luxuriantly. Foliage is a dark green. Flowers start early and continue in abundance until late in November. Color never varies. **\$5.00.**

**HELEN (Bessie Boston). D.** A great big flower of soft primrose yellow, borne on good stem. Bushes grow fairly tall. This is the variety which in 1927 won the prize offered by John Dee Wareham, of the Rookwood Pottery, for the best dahlia of its color. Just the shade of the English primrose—not a lemon yellow. Mr. Wareham wrote most enthusiastically about the performance of this dahlia in Cincinnati last fall. Very large, deep, regularly formed flower. An early bloomer, with long strong stems. The depth of this flower is one of its strong characteristics. It keeps well when cut, and at all seasons is large enough for exhibition. **\$5.00.**

**HESTER (Bessie Boston). AC.** Hester is really a golden brown (not orange), shading to an unusually colored centre which is neither red nor purple. Stems are long and stiff; large size, of course, and form incurved. The coloring is beautiful at all seasons, and never seems to vary. A new autumn shade. Bushes grow very tall and sturdily. Will begin blooming early, and late blossoms will be even larger and more perfect than the early ones. **\$3.00.**

**HONEYMOON (Bessie Boston). D.** We have been told many times the name is descriptive of the gay, crisp blossom of this decorative. Brides love it. Dainty shading of cream and pink, delicately blended so neither color prevails. A true pastel effect. The big flower is carried on a straight, stiff stem. The bushes grow tall and are bright with blossoms the entire season. **\$1.00.**

**IAN (Bessie Boston). HC.** Every good dahlia has emphatically one strong point. With Ian it is form, which is perfectly incurved. A very large and a very deep flower of clear yellow, gradually shading pink on the outer rows of petals. The reverse of these outer petals is also touched with sunset shades. Stem holds the flower upright. Blooms freely. Occasionally flowers will be tipped with white. **\$1.00.**

**ISHBEL (Bessie Boston). Illustrated. AC.** The largest American cactus we have ever seen. Given a good location, nine and ten-inch flowers are common. One of those very free bud-producing dahlias. Color is a striking combination of two shades of yellow. The outer petals are a bright amber and the centre is pure chrome yellow. It is a color combination hard to beat. Stems are very good. Bushes grow tall and spreading, and should be given space to expand. In our row of this variety, the first of October, there were hundreds of buds showing color, and every flower true to form. This is a dahlia that begins blooming early. **\$5.00.**

**IVORY (Bessie Boston) Illustrated. D.** There is a scarcity of Al white dahlias. Well, this immense decorative is creamy white, the shade of old ivory, a color which does not vary from the beginning to the end of the season. A decorative of a most delightful form, composed of long, pointed, waving petals. The centre of the flower is a deep cream and the petals a shade lighter at the outer edges. Each petal has a tiny tip of deep cream, and the flower is suffused with cream. Stem is hard and stiff. The bushes will always contain several high-class flowers, but this is not as profuse a variety as some other dahlias. Bushes grow fairly tall and flowers late in the season have perfect centres. This was the best flower of any other color than red, pink and yellow in the 1930 Palace Hotel show, and was also among the winning twelve Californians there. **\$10.00.**

**JERSEY BEACON (Waite). D.** Chinese scarlet with a tan reverse. Both colors show in the open flower. The huge blossom is very deep and borne on a splendid long stem. Bushes grow tall. This Eastern decorative has won many prizes. **\$1.00.**

**JESSIE K. PRESCOTT (Bessie Boston). D.** Deep orange at the centre, gradually shading to a creamy orange on the rows of outer petals. The tall bushes are branching and productive of masses of splendid flowers with exceptionally long, good stalks. **\$1.00.**

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BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

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American Cactus Dahlia "Ishbel"

ALL TYPES—(Continued)

- J. G. WINTJEN (Bessie Boston). AC.** Flower is incurved in form; the color a salmon pink, slightly lighter than the popular Valentino, but just as lovely. Petals, at the back, are a deeper shade, which shows in the centre; and the whole flower is suffused with gold. Stems are long and good, and the flower is really a great addition to this type. Lovely for cutting, as it keeps well in the house. Bushes grow very tall and robust. They need careful staking for that reason, or they will break down from the wealth of bloom they carry. This dahlia was named for a San Francisco amateur who has been winning prizes for twenty years. **\$3.00.**
- JOY (Bessie Boston). D.** Won the prizes offered for the best six blooms of a lavender, in two big Los Angeles Shows. A clear, silvery lavender, without a trace of white, is the color of this exquisite introduction. Imagine Shudow's Lavender without any white shading, and you have the color of Joy. An immense flower which grows exactly on the top of the stem like a chrysanthemum. Grows tall and has beautiful fernlike leaves. Blooms early and late, and at all times profusely. Flower never shows centre. Behaves much like our old favorite, Shudow's Lavender, but the flower is larger. **\$4.00.**
- JUDGE LEON McCORD (Bessie Boston). D.** An enormous flower, grown on an absolutely stiff, upright stem, which does not bend a particle at any season or in any weather. The color is the deepest shade of gold, with a reverse of old rose. Bushes grow to medium height, but the flower stems grow right out of the foliage, and are long and leafless. A regularly formed flower which lasts two weeks on the bush and is excellent for cutting. Flowers start about the middle of August; the bushes will always be gay with enormous blooms. "Judge McCord is reckoned here in Adelaide, South Australia, as the best dahlia from America." This from a country where dahlias are grown in seasons that are the opposite of ours. It is advisable to plant this among the first plantings, as otherwise it may not begin blooming until September 1. **\$10.00.**
- JULIETTE (Bessie Boston). D.** From early August to December, our bushes of this decorative have been a mass of large, well formed blooms. The color might be described as white, heavily overlaid with rose pink. The effect is a pink blossom. Plants grow fairly tall and bushy, every bush seems to produce about a million buds. This is an attractively formed flower, with long, narrow petals. **\$1.00.**
- KITTIE DUNLAP (Bessie Boston). D.** Kittie Dunlap is not only a beauty, but has every characteristic which endears it to a dahlia grower. Blooms freely all seasons, has excellent keeping qualities, long firm stems, immense size, and great substance. It is of the delightful shade of the American Beauty rose. The petals are broad but have a slight tendency to roll; the long stems are practically without leaves. **\$1.00.**
- KOH-I-NOOR (Bessie Boston). HC.** Maroon. Perfect type of hybrid cactus, as the petals roll closely and run to a point at the tip. The flower texture has a pronounced velvety sheen which adds greatly to its beauty. Blossoms are large and deep. Stem is stiff as a cane. Blooms abundantly. **\$1.00.**
- LUCY (Bessie Boston). D.** Lilac, with a decided pink tone. A large, splendid flower with good stems for cutting. The petals are fairly wide and pointed. Bushes grow tall and bloom freely. This is a 1929 introduction that is always in demand in a mixed bouquet. **\$2.50.**
- LYSTRA (Bessie Boston). P.** Pale salmon, suffused with yellow and shading to gold at the base of the petals. Flower type is perfect, like Geisha. Petals are long and narrow. Height of the bushes is medium. Blooms early; strong stems. **\$2.00.**
- MARIPOSA (Bessie Boston). HC.** The color of this lovely hybrid cactus varies in different climates. With us it is usually pink, with a deeper pink centre, suffused and veined with lavender. Some customers get it our coloring, and others get it with the lavender prevailing. It is always beautiful. A very large flower of perfect hybrid form, composed of long, narrow, incurved petals which twist and turn. An absolutely firm, stiff stem, which rises at least a yard out of the foliage. A centre which is regular and perfect throughout the season. Blooms early and keeps full of flowers the entire fall. Has been a consistent prize winner wherever grown. **\$1.00.**

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BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

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ALL TYPES—(Continued)

**MECCA (Bessie Boston). D.** The best deep red we have ever grown, and we have grown hundreds of them. A delightful coloring of ruby red. A fine big flower which grows on a strong, long stem. A red so pink it will combine with old rose. Petals are irregularly formed making a graceful flower. Plants grow very tall and sturdily and bloom steadily all season. **\$2.50.**

**M. H. de YOUNG (Bessie Boston). D.** Pure old gold, with scarcely any variation in color except perhaps the centre is illuminated with a slightly brighter shade. The first flowers do not perceptibly vary from the last ones in coloring. Always a mass of immense deep blossoms, which are borne high on absolutely stiff stems. Prize winner. **\$3.00.**

**MINAMOTO'S CRIMSON (Minamoto-Bessie Boston). D.** From Port Chester, N. Y., a customer writes: "Minamoto's Crimson was the first to bloom in my garden, and in a dry, hot spell I had on my bush eleven very large flowers at one time. It is a beauty, and still blooming on October 13." The flower looks like a giant pinwheel, the petals turning and twisting in an odd manner. Coloring is a warm, rich crimson lake—a red that can be used with pinks. The flower is very large, and will always attract attention because of its coloring and unusual form. The low growing bushes were the earliest in the garden to flower. Blossoms were immense, and borne on long, upright stems. Every bush was full of high-class flowers. Centre at all seasons remained closed. **\$5.00.**

**MINAMOTO'S PINK (Minamoto-Bessie Boston). D.** A deep pink, with no suffusion of lavender except late in the season, when the centre petals are slightly tinted with lavender. Petals are long and narrow, with an inclination to roll. Flowers are extremely large and borne on very long stems. Good for a cut flower or for exhibition. Bushes grow moderately tall, are profuse bloomers, starting early and continuing until the end of the season with full centres. This dahlia won a first prize in the dahlia show held in Yokohama, Japan, in 1929. **\$4.00.**

**MISCHIEF (Bessie Boston). D.** This dahlia has interested us since its first bloom because it was so strikingly original. The three outer rows of petals are scarlet, and the rest of the flower is white heavily flushed red, the tips being pure white. Bushes grow tall and very luxuriantly. Stem is good. Late in October the bushes bear some red flowers which are often flecked with white. **\$1.50.**

**MR. E. LEEDHAM (Bessie Boston). D.** Our lives are influenced by small events. Many years ago the writer saw her first dahlia show in Santa Cruz, California. The first glimpse enthralled her; she fell in love then and there with this colorful autumn flower. Her enthusiasm was so great, Mr. E. Leedham, one of the exhibitors, honored her by naming his best seedling, Bessie Boston. The seed was sown then for the Bessie Boston Dahlia Farm, but the business was not started until a dozen years later. In memory of Mr. Leedham we have named one of our best introductions for him. The flower is huge, and has great depth as well as diameter. The color is orange scarlet; it does not burn in the sunshine. The stem is very long and carries the flower right on the top of it. Bushes grow very tall and are free producers. They begin flowering early. "A favorite with everyone. There is something different about it. 100% stem. So perfect it seems artificial. Abundant bloomer." Thus wrote an Eastern customer. **\$5.00.**

**NICHU (Bessie Boston). HC.** Two awards in the 1929 exhibition of the Rutledge (Pa.) Horticultural Society are a good showing for Nichu—best single bloom, and best three blooms. The blooms are large, of very incurved shape. Flower is held erect on a strong stalk. A cheerful bloomer which will produce at all parts of the season a mass of clear yellow blossoms, with closed centres. **\$1.00.**

**NIKITA (Bessie Boston). D.** An immense, deep flower, of striking and graceful formation. Color, crimson, with a reverse of pinkish tan, and centre cream. Petals have a trick of twisting and turning. Bushes are low growing and will at all seasons bloom generously with the highest type of flowers. **\$2.50.**

**NORA (Bessie Boston). HC.** This hybrid cactus attracted more than usual attention in our patch last fall. The flower was large and deep, and the incurved form most perfect. Every petal was evenly rolled. The color, a deep ruby red, was not the least of its attractions. Many people called it wine color, but some of us are forgetting what that color is like! Bushes grew to medium height and were in blossom early, producing a wealth of bloom which showed not the slightest deterioration as long as the season lasted. **\$5.00.**

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BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

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ALL TYPES—(Continued)

**OBERON (Bessie Boston). HC.** Deep old rose with a most pronounced violet suffusion. Large, well built, deep flowers, which will remain double the entire season. A splendid free flowering variety, with strong, upright stems. **\$1.00.**

**OPHIR (Bessie Boston). HC.** Coloring as well as form is most striking. The centre of the flower is bright gold, while the outer petals are golden bronze distinctly tipped gold. The narrow petals twist and turn like a paper weather cock. Stem is admirable. Sturdy bushes of medium height are always weighted with flowers. Centres always remain closed. **\$2.00.**

**OSAM SHUDOW (Bessie Boston.) D.** The original Osam Shudow was our friend and associate who worked so energetically to bring fame to Bessie Boston dahlias before his untimely death in 1918. The big, heavy, loose petals produce a flower more like a gigantic rose than a dahlia. Color, a delightful old rose slightly suffused with lilac and shading to yellow at the centre. No bloom has ever been less than nine inches in diameter and most of them larger. The bush is very sturdy and tall, and the main stalk is the thickest we have ever grown. The flower stem is long, thick and heavy and the blossom comes well above the attractive foliage. One bloom is a bouquet. **\$1.00.**

**OTONO (Bessie Boston). D.** This means Autumn in Spanish. The flower is a brilliant gold, full of metallic lustre, the reverse of the petals is reddish pink. The unfolded centre petals are dull red. Flower is large and deep with best possible stem. Blooms freely all season. Bushes grow fairly tall. **\$2.00.**



"Regal," Grown in San Diego, California  
(16½ inches in diameter)

BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

ALL TYPES—(Continued)

**POMPADOUR (Bessie Boston). HC.** The color, a clear deep royal purple, is most striking when growing out of the very dark green foliage of the bush, or when cut. Bouquets of lavender and lilac dahlias are enhanced by its addition. The type of hybrid cactus is well defined. All the petals roll evenly. Bushes grow tall and luxuriantly. Foliage is pretty and different. Blooms profusely early and late. Stems are straight and strong. **\$2.50.**

**RED KNIGHT (Bessie Boston). D.** A red that locally is as popular as Tommy Atkins; but a different shade, pure, brilliant scarlet. Coloring does not vary throughout the flower. Effect is heightened by the velvety sheen of the petals; moreover, the blooms have a brilliant metallic lustre. Until midseason the flowers are very large. Petals are placed regularly, centres remain closed all season. Bushes grow very tall, bloom very early and always bounteously. Stems are particularly long and stiff. Red Knight is still (December 18) in bloom in our garden; but it is one of the few which have escaped the frost. **\$4.00.**

**REGAL (Bessie Boston). Illustrated. D.** For two years we have quoted very complimentary letters about this tremendous dahlia from New York, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Ohio, Montana and California. Now comes from Palmerston, New Zealand, the following: "I got Champion Bloom here in our show with Regal. It has done very well here." It is the biggest Bessie Boston origination, with the exception of F. W. Butler, a 1930 introduction. Has been a prize winner throughout the country. In 1926 it received the Gold Medal for the best six blooms of a three-year-old seedling, and in 1927 was awarded the Western Horticulture's silver cup for the best twenty-five blooms, winning both at the Palace Hotel show in San Francisco. It is a variety which will produce many ten-inch blooms. The crown blossoms will be at least twelve inches and other flowers of this immense size can be obtained by disbudding generously. Many huge dahlias are rather shy bloomers, but Regal is an exception. The plants grow medium height and are one of the first to bloom. They produce countless high-class flowers on long, rigid stems, which grow well out of the foliage. The first bloom, however, if the bush is not pinched back, will have only a twelve-inch stem. Late flowers are very, very big. A delightful and different combination of autumn shades, bronze, heavily suffused with dull old rose, and shading to gold at the base of the petals, giving an effect of burnished copper. **\$5.00.**

**REGENT (Bessie Boston). AC.** Prize winner. Every bush is weighted with blossoms, none less than eight inches. Very incurved formation. Color, a clear mauve pink. Excellent stem. **\$1.00.**

**ROOKWOOD (Bessie Boston). D.** For sheer beauty there is no dahlia like Rookwood. It has been a most persistent prize winner. This decorative is of an entirely new shade of pink, and, of course, difficult to describe. The color is pure, bright cerise rose, without the faintest touch of magenta, and is beautiful under artificial light. The flowers are large, with good depth, and are held aloft on splendid straight stems. The bushes grow low and spreading and are always a mass of blooms. **\$2.00.**

**RORY O'MORE (Bessie Boston). D.** Deep maroon, tipped white. Flower is large and grows on a perfectly stiff stem. Blooms freely all season. Flowers are always two colors. **\$1.00.**

**ROSALIE (Bessie Boston). D.** A pure rose pink; very large, compact flower, and an extraordinarily good cut flower, as it keeps indefinitely when picked. Dahlia growers who specialize in flowers for cutting, particularly admired this dahlia. Yes, it is big, too, and has an absolutely unbending stem; one of those hard stems. The flower grows nearly at the top of the stem, also. This dahlia is slightly paler than Rookwood, and an entirely different form. The petals are almost round, and flat, and the flower is very deep. We particularly recommend it to people who want another pink for cutting; but remember that it can be used for exhibiting as well. Bushes are fairly tall and branching. **\$5.00.**

**ROSARIO (Bessie Boston). P.** Ah, the color, a new true pink. Even the fellow who did not like the peony type, could not resist the color. Flowers are very big and carried straight up on long stems free from leaves. Peony formation is perfect. Flowers are always true to type. Plants grow fairly tall and are always covered with blossoms. **\$2.00.**

**SALADINI (Bessie Boston). D.** The color is fascinating, a bright gold, suffused with brownish pink and shading to a tan centre. The shading changed but slightly as the season advanced. Stem is long and stiff. Bushes grow about three feet tall and branch freely. Flower is very large and of the new pinwheel formation. From Ohio: "Saladini stands extremes of temperature the best of any we know." **\$2.50.**

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BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

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ALL TYPES—(Continued)

**SALBACH'S WHITE (Salbach). D.** This is a big, pure white, carried on a perfect stem. Bushes bloom very freely. The best white we have ever seen for florist's use. This is a dahlia which flourishes in hot as well as cool weather. **\$2.00.**

**SANTA BARBARA (Pelicano). D.** An Achievement Medal dahlia in 1929. A lovely pink. Further description is from originator's catalogue: "The color is true, clear pink. The flowers are enormous and have great depth and good substance. The stems are absolutely perfect, long and stiff, and hold the flowers high above the foliage." **\$7.50.**

**SERENA (Bessie Boston). D.** White, heavily shaded lavender and suffused with blue. Shading never varies in hot and cool weather. Bushes grow tall and branching. Flowers are always big, even if it does bloom so freely. Stem is long and stiff. **\$1.00.**

**SHUDOW'S LAVENDER (Bessie Boston). D.** Is a great favorite and has won too many prizes to list. The very large bloom is a silvery lavender slightly shading to white. In hot weather, the white will be more marked, but as the season advances, will almost entirely disappear. The stem is absolutely perfect, long and stiff, and holds erect the big blossom. It will bloom constantly and freely from early to late season and never show a centre, and also has excellent keeping qualities as a cut flower. One of its most unusual features is the attractive lace-like foliage. The plant is a very tall and robust grower and it often grows to the height of eight feet. Gold medal variety. **\$2.00.**

**SIDI (Bessie Boston). D.** This is a brilliant, high colored flower which will be found invaluable for cutting. It takes courage in these days, in a professional garden, to grow a dahlia which has not immense size; yet many of our customers want dahlias for cutting, and complain that the dahlias are getting too big—too coarse. Sidi should please such customers, especially those who favor orange, for this is pure orange—quite different from anything else. The largest flower we have grown of it was about eight inches. A very regularly formed, symmetrical flower, which at all seasons has a tight centre. Grows tall and very bushy, and will produce a bouquet from early August till frost. **\$2.50.**

**SNOW WHITE (Bessie Boston). D.** It is pleasant to have a customer agree with us. This is what one of our oldest ones wrote from Lynbrook, L. I., in 1929: "Snow White was late, but this dahlia is **white**. The bush grew very tall, and the first one or two blooms had somewhat weak stems. This, I think, was due to the heat; later blooms had good stems. The plant in bloom resembles a huge bouquet, and I hope great things of it next year." The 1930 report from the same source is as follows: "There were fifteen plants of Snow White, all in a row, and it was some wonderful sight. They grow tall with us, but a mass of blooms on long stems. This exhibit was greatly admired by all visitors to the garden." An enormous blossom of absolutely pure white—white as a lily—not the slightest tinge of yellow or pink at any time of the season. Plants grow tall and bushy. The flower is most attractive in form, having depth as well as size. Petals are regularly placed, long and wide, but the flower is never stiff. Stems are long and strong, but plants should be in the sunshine. We advised this last season, and practiced it ourselves. Result: All stems. This decorative blooms early and produces flowers generously all the blossoming months. There will always be plenty of buds to be removed; don't be afraid to disbud. **\$10.00.**

**SONORA (Bessie Boston). H.C.** Fiery orange. The centre is flame color and the flower shades lighter at the outer petals. In the sunshine it looks as if it were sprinkled with gold dust. A large, but not immense flower with a good stem. Bushes grow fairly tall and bloom freely from early to late season. **\$1.00.**

**STANFORD CARDINAL (Bessie Boston). D.** This dahlia was named in '28 by students of Stanford University, as they said it was absolutely typical of their color. (By the bye, Stanford University is ten miles south of San Mateo.) A very big bloom of deep, rich red, with an attractive, as well as artistic form. No, the petals are placed quite regularly, but have a little twist entirely different from any other flowers of this type. Bushes grow tall, and late flowers will equal early ones. Stems are ideal: long and stiff. Centres remain closed until the season ends. A dahlia which everybody seems to like. Red dahlias are at a premium these days, to grow against the white plaster walls of the Spanish style of home. **\$3.00.**

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BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

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Decorative Dahlia "Ivory"

ALL TYPES—(Continued)

**STARLIGHT (Bessie Boston). IIC.** This immense hybrid in 1930 won a first prize in the Englewood (N. J.) Dahlia Society's show, another in the Bergen County (N. J.) show, and was judged the best five blooms of a gold or yellow in the Palace Hotel show in San Francisco. Among its 1929 winnings were two prizes in Yokohama dahlia shows, one of which took place early in July and the other in late October. Pure unshaded gold is the color, and this we might add, is a coloring which few customers can resist. It is a gold shade which combines with everything in the average house decorations. Flower is huge and there seems to be no limit to the size it can be grown. Bushes are fairly tall, robust and branching. They start to bloom early and are always laden with perfect centre flowers. Form is capital; petals roll evenly until very late in the year. Stem is incomparable; long, rigid, and carried well above the leaves. **\$7.50.**

**TOMMY ATKINS (Bessie Boston). D.** There was never such a startling color—flaming scarlet—so full of metallic lustre that it fairly glistens in the sunshine. The name was given it because of its stunning coloring, which is like the British soldier's tunic. The large deep blossom is attractively formed, and is not stiff and formal. And oh, yes, the stem is quite as stiff as the cane the British soldier swaggers with, and it blooms very early and continuously. In the 1930 Santa Monica (California) show this decorative was a prize winner. **\$1.50.**

**TOPAZ (Bessie Boston). D.** This is a big flower, grown on the stiffest and straightest stem there is. Bushes grow low, but not dwarf, and will bloom very early in the season, continuing to produce flowers in abundance. Flowers grow straight out of the bushes on exceedingly long stems. The coloring is most distinctive, cream and amber, heightened by a reverse of soft, sunset pink, but the general effect of the flower is a deep, dull old gold. Petals are regularly placed. Blossoms have splendid keeping qualities when cut. **\$5.00.**

**TUCKAHOE (Bessie Boston). IIC.** Very large, deep hybrid cactus of a warm red, which combines with all autumn shades of foliage or flowers. The centre of the flower is almost a maroon, and the outer petals are distinctly lighter. Plants grow low—about three feet tall. Flower stems are of lateral growth, but good and stiff. A new red for exhibiting, and perfectly delightful for cutting. While this is a low growing variety with us, in a warmer climate it would probably be several feet taller. **\$4.00.**

**ULRICA (Bessie Boston). D.** Violet, with a silver reverse. The long petals twist and turn and show a bit of the silver lining; particularly observable at the centre of the flower. Very large and very deep; borne on a perfectly stiff stem. A color which combines charmingly with lavenders. Very tall bushes, which produce at all seasons an abundance of flowers. The odd combination of colors in this dahlia arrested the attention of everybody who saw it growing. The common remark was, "Well, that's something different." **\$3.00.**

**UNDINE (Bessie Boston). D.** Undine is one of the dahlias that will keep a week when cut. The color is old rose, heavily flushed with lavender, and is much prettier than this sounds. One of the earliest dahlias to bloom. The flower is regularly formed and grows on an absolutely stiff stem. Bushes grow to medium height and carry a wealth of blooms. The flower is very large at all seasons. **\$2.00.**

**UNUSUAL (Bessie Boston). IIC.** Base coloring is cream, heavily suffused with the deepest shade of cerise pink. Every petal is heavily tipped with this odd coloring, and there is a glint of gold showing in the inner petals. The large blossom is incurved with closely rolled petals. Stem is stiff and strong and carries the flower well above the leaves. The tall plants produce freely all season. **\$2.50.**

**VALENTINO (Bessie Boston). Back Cover Illustration. D.** 1930 reports on this most beautiful dahlia indicate its continued success and popularity throughout the country. From New York one customer writes "Valentino! Well, I think Valentino is one of your finest introductions, and there have been many fine ones, too; but this one, 'Oh Boy!!'" From Ohio: "This last named variety (Valentino) was a glorious success this year. It is altogether lovely, both as to form and color, and the plants are excellent in character. \* \* \* Valentino, as I have told you, was one of our best." Derrill W. Hart wrote of it: "A luscious colored dahlia of creamy salmon shading to rose pink. A large flower on good stems and one of the most attractive combinations among the newcomers." The color is true salmon pink shading to cream at the centre. The flower has enormous size and attractive form. Stem is long and upright and grows out of bushes of medium height. An early and free bloomer. **\$5.00.**

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BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

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Hybrid Cactus Dahlia "W. H. Waite"

ALL TYPES—(*Continued*)

**VARIABLE (Bessie Boston). D.** This name is most descriptive of the dahlia. The first crop of flowers are a dark, warm red. Then will come a crop of flowers which are (according to Ridgway's chart) a true purple, in our eyes it is heliotrope. As these die out another crop of the maroon blooms will come on, and so on throughout the season. The blooms are immense, and of a most attractive form. Petals are long, wide and curling. The flowers grow at the top of the stem, which is long and stiff, carrying the blooms well out of the foliage. Blooms very freely at all seasons. Bushes grow moderately tall. **\$5.00.**

**VIGO (Bessie Boston). EC.** The flower is composed of many fine, closely rolled petals, and is borne on a stiff stem. Coloring is delightfully novel, a smoky pink, or ashes of roses. Bushes grow tall and bloom like weeds. Very large flowers will be the result of careful disbudding. Flowers keep their centre all season. **\$1.00.**

**VIVANDIERE (Bessie Boston). P.** Cerise carmine, shading lighter at the tips of the petals. An immense deep peony, with the centre surrounded with petaloids. Eight-inch blooms are attainable without disbudding. The stems are excellent. **\$1.00.**

**W. H. WAITE (Bessie Boston). HC.** Illustrated. An immense hybrid cactus of absolutely perfect form. Color is shell pink, shading to a cream centre, and the flower is carried erect on a stiff stem. The artistic weaving and interweaving of the long, curling petals, combined with the rare, delicate coloring, make this variety an outstanding production in our years as an introducer. This enormous dahlia has been winning laurels for us since its "debut" in 1927 at the Palace Hotel show, and last fall was among our prize-winners of the cactus type. "A million-dollar dahlia" said the well-known dahlia grower, Mrs. Jessie L. Seal, as she gazed on a row of this variety in our garden. Bushes grow tall and branching. Leaves are large and "insect resisting." Our bushes start to flower very early, and are full of blossoms until late. Midseason and late flowers retain their perfect form. The photographed flower was cut on October 1; but no photograph can do justice to the form of this exquisite blossom. **\$20.00.**

**YUKON (Bessie Boston). D.** Very distinctive coloring of royal purple, with a blue light running through it. This blue suffusion is most noticeable on the outer petals. A large but not immense flower, with a stem hard and stiff. Bushes are tall and luxuriant. **\$1.00.**

**ZANTE (Bessie Boston). HC.** Gold, heavily suffused with apricot pink. The centre is of the deeper shading. The coloring remains true all season, but the gold deepens as the season advances. The blooms are very deep and very large. The stem is stiff as a poker and holds the flower erect. Bushes are always covered with flowers. **\$1.50.**



## Pompon Dahlias—New and Old

**AIMEE (Bessie Boston).** A wee flower of bronze; coloring is entirely new and charming. Blossoms freely on exceedingly long stems. **50c.**

**AMBER (Bessie Boston).** Pure amber color. Excellent form, but early blooms are not perfect. **50c.**

**ARTHUR (Bessie Boston).** Splendid, bright red, with very long stem. **75c.**

**BANTAM (Hennig-Bessie Boston).** Very dainty. Small and well formed. Very long stems. Floriferous. Novel color of brownish red. **75c.**

**BILLEE (Bessie Boston).** Small scarlet bloom of the best form for exhibiting. **\$1.00.**

**DANDY (Bessie Boston).** Perfect orange in every respect. Small, well formed and free. **75c.**

**DEE DEE (Estes).** Decidedly good. Small. Well formed pale lilac. **50c.**

**GLOW.** Charming old rose; greatly in demand. **50c.**

**HAZEL DELL (Hodgens).** A charming pink which will be found excellent for cutting. Good form. **75c.**

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BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

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Decorative Dahlia "F. W. Butler"

POMPON DAHLIAS—*New and Old (Continued)*

- HELEN ANITA (Feeney). Pale lavender shading white to the centre. Very pretty and free flowering. **75c.**
- JOE FETTE (Bessie Boston). The best white for all purposes. **50c.**
- JOHNNIE. One of the tiniest of all; very dark red. **50c.**
- LEDA BEELER (Hodgens). Tiny, compact lavender with very long stems. **75c.**
- LITTLE CHAMPAGNE (Bessie Boston). New 1931. A miniature decorative—about an inch and a half in diameter. Dull gold, suffused with copper. **\$1.00.**
- LITTLE DAVID (Twitchett). The deepest shade of orange. Small, perfectly shaped blossom. Very free blooming. One of the best. **50c.**
- LLOYD HICKMAN (Hodgens). A distinct new color of old rose. An exceptional cut flower because of its length of leafless stem **75c.**
- MARY (Bessie Boston). Pale lavender, deepening toward the centre. Well formed and small. **75c.**
- MIKE (Bessie Boston). A charming new color of burnt orange, shading lighter at the outer petals. Flower is small and round. A profuse bloomer. **75c.**
- ROYAL (Hodgens). New 1931. Deep purple; of medium size. A much-needed color. **\$1.00.**
- SALLY (Hodgens). New 1930. Small, shell-like petals of cream, delicately flushed pink. **\$1.00.**
- TOM (Bessie Boston). Small and compact flower of bright yellow, tipped sunset red. Produces masses of blossoms. **50c.**
- YELLOW GEM (McWhirter). Yellow. Very free flowering, and the best of its color for cutting. **50c.**



## Order Suggestions

**Order Early**—Order early to prevent disappointment.

**Substitution**—We do not substitute excepting by permission.

**Forwarding**—We ship at your planting time unless otherwise requested.

**Terms**—Remittance with order. We prepay transportation on all retail orders.

**Culture**—With every shipment we enclose growing instructions.

**Seeds and Bargains**—See announcement on opposite page.

**GUARANTEE**—We guarantee our unpropagated roots are true to name and in strong growing condition when shipped. But we do not guarantee very early shipments used for propagating.

**BESSIE BOSTON DAHLIA FARM**  
**SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA**

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BESSIE BOSTON, THE NAME THAT STANDS FOR THE BEST IN DAHLIAS THE WORLD OVER

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## Seeds / Seeds

Yes, we have for sale seeds of our best parents. We have been growing seedlings for seventeen years, and believe there is no phase of dahlia culture more interesting and exciting. You must be prepared to laugh and to cry at the results of a seedling patch. Laugh at the failures (and the best of seeds will produce a portion of these), and shed tears of joy when you discover a future prize winner. It is a temptation (which, however, we are resisting) to publish some of the enthusiastic letters from our seed customers. Varieties do not come true from seeds, but all new dahlias come from seed. We plant mixed seed only, and are selling a proportion of what we save for our own planting, because of the heavy demand.

50 seeds.....\$2.50 net  
100 seeds..... 5.00 net

## Bargains

We usually have a surplus of some dahlias and a shortage of others. Our labelled collections, hitherto sold only at the Farm, have proven so popular, the same customers coming back year after year for them, that this year we decided to include them in our catalogue, for the benefit of all our friends.

We sell these collections of 12 different varieties at \$10, \$15, \$25, and upward. They represent at least fifty per cent. more than the catalogue value.

All varieties taken from our selling stock; all different; all labelled. Our selection.



## JOIN US

The Dahlia Society of San Francisco is flourishing. It was founded four years ago by the leading commercial and amateur growers in the San Francisco Bay section. The membership has grown steadily and now includes people all over the world. Membership is \$2.00 a year. Address the Secretary, Elizabeth W. Lymbery, 126 El Camino Real, San Mateo, California.



Decorative Dahlia "Valentino"

BESSIE · BOSTON · DAHLIAS  
1931